

NEWS RELEASE

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

101 S Webster, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707

Phone: 608-267-2773 TDD: 711

dnr.wi.gov www.wisconsin.gov

DATE: January 22, 2019

CONTACT: Rori Paloski

SUBJECT: Incidental take notice for Waukesha County

MADISON -- The Davis Wetland Mitigation Project may result in the "incidental taking" of a rare frog under a permit the Department of Natural Resources proposes to issue for the project. Incidental take refers to the unintentional loss of individual endangered or threatened animals or plants that does not put the overall population of the species at risk.

This project is a wetland restoration sponsored by the Wisconsin Wetland Conservation Trust, DNR's In-lieu Fee mitigation program, to compensate for unavoidable wetland loss elsewhere in the state. The project site encompasses about 52 acres, of which approximately 1.3 acres is suitable for the Blanchard's cricket frog. The project will disable the drainage ditches and restore the agricultural land to native plant communities including sedge meadow, wet to wet-mesic prairie, and mesic prairie. It will improve the existing wetlands and woodlands by removing invasive non-native plant species and establishing native vegetation.

The presence of the state endangered Blanchard's cricket frog (*Acris blanchardi*) has been confirmed in the vicinity of the project site. DNR staff determined that the proposed project may result in the incidental taking of some frogs.

The Department has concluded that the proposed project is not likely to appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival or recovery of the species within the state, the whole plant-animal community of which it is a part or the habitat that is critical to its existence.

The conservation measures to minimize the adverse effect on the endangered species will be incorporated into the proposed Incidental Take Permit. Copies of the jeopardy assessment and background information on the Blanchard's cricket frog are available by searching the DNR website for [incidental take public notice](#) or upon request from Rori Paloski (608-264-6040 or rori.paloski@wi.gov). The department is requesting comments from the public through February 21, 2019 regarding project-related impacts to the Blanchard's cricket frog. Public comments should be sent to Rori Paloski, WDNR, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921 or rori.paloski@wi.gov.